

NETWORK INTERFACE DEVICE AND METHOD

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A network interface device includes a first  
interface operable to receive at least two incoming calls  
over a subscriber line, and a second interface operable  
to facilitate communication between the first interface  
and a first telephone line and between the first  
10 interface and a second telephone line. The second  
interface is also operable to generate one or more first  
ring voltages on the first telephone line and one or more  
second ring voltages on the second telephone line. The  
network interface device also includes a processor  
coupled to the first interface and the second interface.  
The processor is operable to instruct the second  
15 interface to generate the first and second ring voltages  
in response to receiving the incoming calls. The  
processor is also operable to allocate the first and  
second ring voltages among the first and second telephone  
lines to ensure that a total instantaneous load placed on  
the second interface does not exceed a determined  
20 threshold level.

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